

ATTACHMENT

**Corrected "Summary Of Claimed Subject Matter"
For Appeal Brief In Application No. 09/895,948**



SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

The invention claimed here is directed to an enhanced signaling system that operates to provide a signaling platform that is independent of the electronic and optical switching and transmission systems interconnected with an integrated optical network. In particular, the enhanced signaling system of the invention provides a signaling mechanism that allows any device interfaced to the optical network to be handled without the need to use the legacy signaling techniques of that device. A key feature of the invention is that of the signaling method and apparatus of the invention operating to process signaling information from various external signaling networks or devices, including networks/devices operating with electronic signaling, independently of the legacy signaling techniques of the external network or device. Thus the signaling can be accomplished by way of optical interfaces that couple directly to the respective optical components rather than having signaling being accomplished through electrical connections as occurs in the prior art.

Independent apparatus claims 1, 11 and 19 are directed to particular embodiments of the enhanced signaling system of the invention. Claim 1 is directed to a signaling apparatus in an integrated optical network comprising (1) a plurality of electrical signaling interfaces for receiving requests from external signaling networks [Specification p. 5, lines 8-12, p. 8, lines 17-30; Fig 2, Ref. Nos. 204, 206, 208, Fig. 3, Ref. No. 302], (2) a processing module for processing the requests from the external signaling networks [Specification, p.5, lines 6-19, p. 8, line 15 – p. 10, line 12; Fig. 2, Ref. No. 202, Fig. 3, Ref. No. 300], and (3) an optical signaling interface for coupling to optical components in an integrated optical network and operable to transmit processed requests from the processing module for assignment of optical channels for the optical components [Specification, p. 5, lines 12-19, p. 9, lines 19-30; Fig. 2, Ref. No. 216, Fig. 3, Ref.

No. 306]. Claim 1 further includes a limitation directed to the feature of the invention whereby signaling information from various external signaling networks or devices is processed independently of the legacy signaling techniques of the external network or device, thereby permitting the signaling to be accomplished by way of optical interfaces that couple directly to respective optical components [Specification, p. 13, line 12 – p. 14, line 24].

Independent apparatus claim 11 includes substantially comparable limitations to those of claim 1, except that the processing module of claim 1 is further defined in terms of (1) a signaling and call control module [Specification, p. 10, lines 5-12; Fig. 3, Ref. No. 312] (2) a signaling and endpoint applications module [Specification, p. 9, lines 8-18; Fig. 3, Ref. No. 304], and (3) a network management and provisioning module [Specification, p. 9, lines 1-7; Fig. 3, Ref. No. 308].

Independent apparatus claim 19 includes substantially comparable limitations to those of claim 1 with additional limitations directed to an optical service node [Specification, p. 5, lines 12-14; Fig. 2, Ref. No. 210] coupled to the optical signaling interface and including (1) an optical cross connect [Specification, p. 5, lines 12-19; Fig. 2, Ref. No. 212] and (2) an optical add/drop multiplexer [Specification, p. 5, lines 12-19; Fig. 2, Ref. No. 214].

Independent method claim 16 is directed to steps for carrying out the process of the enhanced signaling system of the invention including (1) receiving requests from external signaling networks at an electrical signaling interface [Specification, p. 12, line 6 – p. 13, line 11], (2) processing the requests from the external signaling network [Specification, p. 12, line 6 – p. 13, line 11] and (3) transmitting the processed requests via an optical signaling interface that couples to optical components in an integrated optical network for assignment of optical channels [Specification, p. 12, line 6 – p. 13, line 11]. Claim 16 further includes a limitation

directed to the feature of the invention whereby signaling information from various external signaling networks or devices is processed independently of the legacy signaling techniques of the external network or device, thereby permitting the signaling to be accomplished by way of optical interfaces that couple directly to respective optical components [Specification, p. 13, line 12 – p. 14, line 24].

As indicated in the bracketed references following described claim limitations, the features of the claims as set forth above are generally described in the specification at page 5, line 6 through page 10, line 12. The functionality of the enhanced signaling system of the invention is described in further detail at page 12, line 5 through page 14, line 24 of the specification. The unique feature of the invention respecting the processing of signaling information independently of legacy signaling techniques is particularly described at page 6, lines 11-23 and page 14, lines 6-24.